



HIGHsted FLYERS

December 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

It is with much joy that I write to you at this time of year – at Christmas – as we take time to reflect on the work of the school. So much has been achieved by your daughters, sons and their friends as we get back in to established routines that were so familiar before the pandemic...

Whether it is involvement in sport, music, drama, standing up for a purpose greater than self as an anti-bullying ambassador or fund-raising for the local hospice – our students continue to excel. To all members of the Highsted community who continue to go above and beyond, thank you, your school is proud of your endeavours.

Christmas is a time of year during which we are reminded of the importance of being community conscious and this year, the school has been focussed on the mantra taken from Black History Month – *action not words* - to inspire our work. The Sixth form once again have created ‘pamper hampers’ for those care home colleagues who have dedicated so much of their time caring for others. The whole of Year 8 channelled the Highsted virtue of empathy in writing a personal Christmas card to an elderly care home resident in order to eradicate the feeling of loneliness at Christmas and others across the school community donated to the local Food bank; to all students however large or small your contribution we salute you for your selfless acts of charitable kindness.

We have been humbled to once again be able to host the annual Wisdom Hospice lighting ceremony – *‘Lights for Love’*. Our appreciation is extended to Mrs Braddy and Mrs Reed for their support in choreographing this special event. Those in attendance took time to remember loved ones who are now departed but not forgotten and former students Maddie Neil and Ellie Payne and their families were very much in our thoughts and prayers.

The Highsted community was excited to once again open our doors to the Year 7 Tea Party! Not only was this an occasion for Year 7 to meet up with their former Year 6 teacher and show how much they have grown and embraced life at secondary school, but it was wonderful to see so many old girls

– former Highsted students - in the early stages of their careers as primary teachers and leaders in this community.

As you read on in the newsletter you will come across the work the school has been involved in for Remembrance. This year in memory of the death of Queen Elizabeth II, the country’s longest reigning monarch, the school focussed on the theme of Britishness and British values as a tribute to her legacy. The installation created is a wonderful piece of work from across the school body and our thanks is extended to Mrs Lennox in her leadership of this superb activity of remembrance.

As we draw to the end of another term at Highsted, the whole school would like to give a shout out of thanks to sixth formers, Jack, Brooke and Oakleigh in their leadership of several open mic sessions that have taken place in the school hall at lunchtimes which have been intended to raise awareness of many and varied social topics since we returned in September; students your events have brought a lot of joy and laughter to the school community and we are so very grateful.

Finally, we say good bye to Miss Mead who is returning to the school where she commenced her initial teacher training – Wilmington Grammar School for Girls; the school community wishes her well for the next phase of her career. Miss Apps has finally secured her lifetime ambition to work as a teacher in Australia and commences her relocation in January 2023 – we wish her all the best for this exciting opportunity! Ms Saunders is leaving the school to work from home for Kent County Council as part of Children’s Services; thank you for your support of children during your tenure at the school and Ms Umbers is leaving to commence employment at Valley Park in Maidstone, responsible for logistics across this large Multi Academy Trust; we wish her all the best for this significant promotion.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Happy and joyful Christmas and the very best for the year ahead. As ever, thank you for your continued support of the school, it is much appreciated. Please be advised that the school will open for the new term on 03 January 2023.

My very best wishes
Anne Kelly
Headteacher

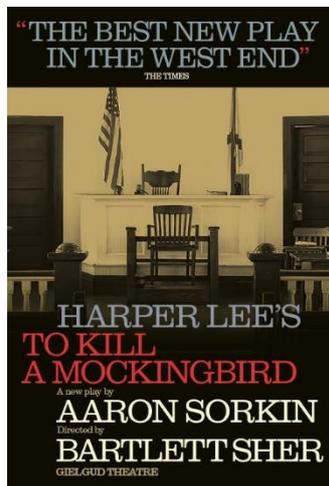
House Drama

A wonderful evening was had by all during The **Annual House Drama Competition 2022** in November. The event has a history of being highly competitive and creative and this year did not disappoint! The competition was launched back in September and all students were given the chance to compete through devising their own original group drama production. Students stepped up to the challenge to scriptwrite, cast, direct and design the production over weeks of preparation. The theme this year was "Action not Words" inspired by the 2022 Black History Month slogan. Students were inspired by this theme exploring social and political issues that they felt should be addressed. It was wonderful to witness the combination of different genres explored in their dramatic pieces from comedy to tragedy to physical theatre, bringing what they had learnt onto stage. We were also delighted to welcome back ex Highsted students who have trained and are now working in the field of professional performance. The judges remarked on how all pieces had their merit and it was fantastic to see how intelligent and creative all 6 house performances were, however we have to congratulate Franklin on becoming the winners of House Drama Competition 2022. They created a moving piece about how life felt for a young person who was deaf and how the actions of the people around them aided them on becoming included and fulfilled regardless of their disability.



Drama & Theatre Trips

The Theatre Studies students went to go see **To Kill a Mockingbird** at the Gielgud Theatre in London on the 6th of December 2022. The outstanding performances from Anna Munden as Scout, Matthew Modine as Atticus Finch and Jude Owusu as Tom Robinson created an emotive and immersive experience for the audience, that we as a class were captivated by. We were especially moved by how the performers presented the themes of the play such as prejudice, family life, courage and



racism with quotes such as 'all rise' and 'I was guilty when I was accused' along with the infamous line 'it's a sin To Kill a Mockingbird'. I cannot wait to explore this this captivating, tear-jerking and creative production further in class.

By Chloe W

A Level Theatre Studies student

Our GCSE drama group went to see '**The Woman in Black**' at the Fortune Theatre, London on the 13th December 2022. Initially, we thought the play to be frightening and stern, and of course it was nothing but, however it also included comical moments which everyone in the audience thoroughly enjoyed. As well as this, there were moments of audience participation, when the actors made their way into the stalls, which made the experience even more personal and immersive. The three actors who made up the cast were enthralling and charismatic, and what they lacked in cast members, they made up for in sheer talent and their ability to multi-role and stun the audience. It's safe to say we were all inspired, additionally petrified, and after leaving the theatre, we felt incredibly privileged to be one of the last year groups to see the production in London's West End, before its closure on 4th March 2023.

By Evie, Tope, Esme and Sean C

Year 11 GCSE drama students



Fright Night

An incredible **Fright Night** was held on Thursday 20th October. The Year 12 and 13 Theatre Studies students were amazing in their terrifying creations that the whole school thoroughly enjoyed! Feedback from students and staff just shows how captivating and truly petrifying this successful new addition to the drama departments extra curricular has been!



'Heart stopping and the actors were amazing!' - Year 7 student

'It was absolutely brilliant, but also terrifying!' - Mrs Moir

'It was terrifying, I jumped out of my skin!' - Year 11 student

'It was an experience I would definitely do again!' - Year 8 student

'It was so fun to see everyone's reaction leaving the drama studio!' - Year 9 student

Year 9 Christmas product challenge



In food preparation and nutrition this term. The year 9s have been set a Christmas Challenge where they had to decorate a cake, swiss roll or cupcakes using ready to roll icing or butter cream into a Yule log Christmas/festive theme. Students were given the creative freedom to design it how ever they wanted.



As their teacher I was very impressed with their excellent

outcomes and there were even students were up to store bought standard.



A-Level Art Trip to Margate

On the Friday 23rd September, the A-Level students all took a trip to Margate to visit the old town, go to the harbour and visit the art gallery, the Turner Contemporary.

It was a very exciting day, as we starting sight-seeing as soon as we got off the train.

Our first stop was to the Turner



Contemporary, a very modern building with lots of interesting art inside. When we arrived, we looked at all the amazing sculptures made by an artist called Anne Ryan. She created a range of different sculptures of many different people and communities.

These sculptures were very interesting, as they were extremely intricate and colourful. We then viewed a very cool artist exhibit, based on an artist called Ingrid Pollard. The main highlight of her exhibition was her moving sculptures. There were 3 of them and they each moved individually and were meant to represent rebellion and protesting.

We then went around the rest of Margate and went and saw some cool



graffiti on some abandoned buildings. It was really nice to see some other people's art and to take really nice pictures by

the sea.

After this, we were able to end the day with some fish and chips by the beach and talk to each other about what we found out and what we thought was most interesting.

Tate Britain with Year 11 – 2022

On the 6th October Art students from Year 11 were taken to London by coach to research and extend their knowledge and deepen their understanding of artists. Students were encouraged to think critically and identify with those they liked.



The wide range of artists helped to inspire and develop their ideas towards their final independent project pieces. Students



were able to discuss artworks in the flesh with their peers and their teachers.

Year 11 had the pleasure of analysing both contemporary and historical works of art. Artists such as Chris Ofili, Hew Locke, John Everett Millais and Barbara Hepworth provided



the students with opportunities to broaden their experience in a gallery environment.

At the end of the visit we were lucky enough to bump into the director of the Tate, Maria Balshaw, who expressed her joy of

seeing young students studying art. Maria was with the USA Minister Counsellor for Public Affairs, Kathryn Crockart, who expressed a wish to have her picture taken with us!

Mrs Waring
Head of Art

KS3 Art Exhibition

Years 7, 8 & 9 were set the challenge of the theme 'Action Not Words'. There were so many fantastic entries from all years, with media ranging from paintings to photography. Congratulations to Nkengbeza in Year 8, who achieved first prize for her entry.



Alongside the whole school challenge was the Year 7 'Citizen of the World' Batik artworks.

The project used the artist Yinka Shonibare as inspiration and starting point. The theme celebrated being a 'Citizen of the World' using colour, pattern and texture as a means of expression. Students developed personal symbolic elements linked to their identity to create the compositions. The pieces looked beautiful and festive next to the Christmas tree in the Hipod.



A special thank you to Arts Ambassador, Isabelle in Year 12 for arranging them in the Hipod with art helpers from Year 7.3. Merry Christmas everyone! From the Art Department



Year 7 Tea Party

Year 7 welcomed an array of guests to their Tea Party. The event was a joyous occasion, where pupils were able to share with their Year 6 Headteachers and teachers how they have settled into Highsted.

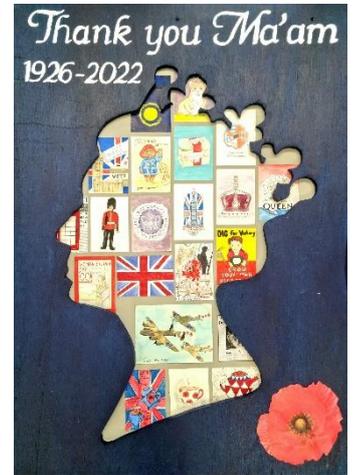


Year 8 Christmas Cards to Care homes

Throughout Term 2, Year 8 pupils have been continuing to explore what it means to be community conscious, having empathy towards others, and considering the wider world around them. As a result of their learning, they have decided to send a joyful Christmas message in Christmas cards to the elderly in our local care homes. Pupils have been looking at how a small gesture can make a huge difference.

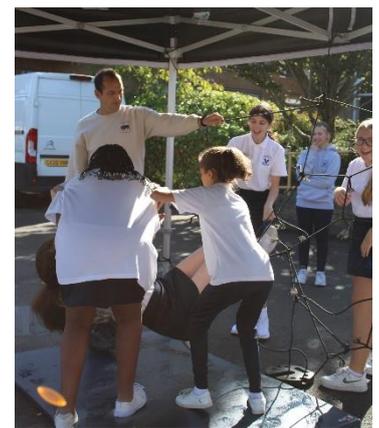
Remembrance

This year as we remember those who have served our country we have chosen to reflect upon the service of our Queen and what it means to be British. Pupils across all year groups have come together to explore the British values: Democracy, The rule of law, Individual liberty, Mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs. Pupils have found that our society is rich with diversity, and that the things that make us individual, and yet British, should be celebrated. Pupils have taken inspiration from the work of Peter Blake, an English Pop Artist, to create a montage of artworks that represent what it means to be British and to pay homage to our late Queen. You can see some iconic imagery that we associate with Remembrance and Britain. We have the good fortune of Scarlett A's talents and she played the Last Post on her trumpet outside for the school community who spontaneously stood in support in a massive circle in the playground.



Year 8 Army Day

Year 8 pupils had the opportunity to participate in team-building exercises put on by The Army. Pupils' coordination, communication and logic were put to the test through the various activities led by The Army. Pupils needed to work together to navigate



and overcome the various obstacles in their way, showing determination and resilience. Pupils had a fantastic day and it was great to see their efforts and hard work! Special thanks to The Army for coming in for the day.

Harvest Boxes

Year 7 and 8 have creatively and maturely interpreted and responded the theme 'Action not words' for their Harvest Boxes. In Year 7, we had the idea of Helping Hands from 7.1, looking at how we can take action in our Highsted community, local community and globally. Each hand represents an action we can take.



7.2 decided to explore and present ideas around inequalities and diversity. 7.3 globe's represents what the world gave us - colourful land, happy animals and beautiful nature. They were interested in how we need to take action to care for our lovely earth. 7.3 had a range of boxes each addressing different issues that they feel we need to take action with, the class split into teams to focus on issues they felt were most important to them. Year 8 had an equally exciting array of boxes and ideas. 8.1 focused upon the idea of Time and how time is ticking with taking action – they focused on religion, BLM and LGBTQ+, expressing that inclusivity and celebrating diversity is key. 8.2 took a similar approach and focused upon Cultural appreciation. They showed this through decorating their box with flags of their ethnicity to develop a wider community and understanding of the people around us. 8.3 have decided to focus upon endangered animals and the impact that we have on the wildlife around us. 8.4 took a different approach and focused upon celebrating Women's football, following the success of the lionesses. They explored equality and the need for us to continue to develop this. 8.5 looked at discrimination, focusing on body image and the impact of this of emotional wellbeing. Both year groups have shown an impressive array of ideas and Harvest boxes.

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Friends of the Wisdom Hospice

Congratulations to our Year 7 Charity Leaders, Maisie B, Madison D, Neve G and Lily S and Year 7 students who supported the selling of merchandise through a lunchtime stall, to raise money for the Friends of the Wisdom Hospice. There was overwhelming support across year groups to purchase merchandise and donate to the hospice. The Year 7 charity leaders will present to all Year 7s next term the total they have raised for the charity and how the money will be used by the charity. Well Done!



Music Updates

Captain Noah & his Floating Zoo – Year 7 Concert

Just 6 weeks after starting at Highsted, the year 7 en masse presented a concert performing "Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo". Every class had learnt 4 songs in lessons with Mrs Reed and this was put together as a whole, along with 3 soloists – Isabella S and Lily S and Naysa D. It was a joyous occasion and lovely to welcome the new parents into the school so soon into their children's Highsted journey. The finale was presented at the Year 7 Tea-party when they invite their primary school teachers in to have a catch-up.

Lights for Love – Tuesday 29th November

A beautiful occasion, set up by the Wisdom Hospice for people in the community to come together to remember loved ones lost.

Millie M gave the most beautiful rendition of Elgar's Salut d'Amour and Origin sang Fix You superbly and Jack played and sang Ed Sheeran's Supermarket Flowers very touchingly. Everything was so appropriate, it felt like a calm and safe place to hold the feelings of those who attended.

The Primary Christmas Jamborees

Across 2 days in early December we welcomed 7 primary schools to our school. 80 children each day enjoyed taking part in singing workshops, learning new songs, refining prepared songs, singing to each other and having a rhythm workshop or playing their instrument alongside some of our musicians. Finally, the days ended with a concert to parents which was a nice way to consolidate the day's work. It was an extremely beneficial experience for everyone to help each other engage in and connect with music.

Some members of the Music Department had the opportunity to take part as instrumentalists and some members of Chamber Choir supported the children singing. In addition, we had the privilege to be joined by boys from Borden Grammar School on one of the days, to perform all together.

This was lovely to have key musicians from both schools coming together.

Some musicians from the GCSE group felt it was a great opportunity and exciting to be able to represent their school and the music department to the primary children's parents, who may not be familiar with the school. From their student perspective, it was enjoyable to spend the afternoon doing what they love and have a passion for, for other people's enjoyment and maybe influence some of the children to pick up a hobby or instrument. From a VIth former's perspective, it was a great opportunity to work with younger children and see them so excited within a secondary school environment. The rhythm workshop was also valuable for the children to keep in time together and learn about the importance of rhythm within music. Another joyous coming together of mass music making.

Royal Festival hall

We all found the trip to London really vital and beneficial to our learning. It was really great to be surrounded by many other GCSE music students from so many other schools, it felt like a communal hub for budding musicians to gain confidence and expand their knowledge. The content covered in the concert by the narrator was really varied and featured pieces from many exam boards including the board that we study at Highsted (Eduqas). The concert went in depth to analyse and explain the context and techniques used in set pieces that we have to study for our GCSE (from the likes of John Williams' Star Wars and Superman to music from the Baroque period like Bach's Badinerie). The information consolidated knowledge, highlighted key musical terms that we were able to listen out for within the pieces, was very easy to understand with terminology broken down into definitions and interactive quizzes for all the students to join in to see how much of the information they could retain. We found this trip to be a lovely experience, to become closer to like-minded people in our own school who are interested in music, but a great opportunity to see an orchestra playing live. It was lots of fun to be able to go to London and be in a real concert hall.

As the only A level student on the trip, I would recommend this experience as it was not only enjoyable to be out in London but educational at the same time.

The GCSE Music group & Hannah T Carol Concerts

Students from up and down the school (from year 7s to Sixth formers) joined in as one music department to help provide 30 minutes of entertainment for four separate performances to everyone in the school, including a final performance to parents in the evening. The three performances during school time were tailored to fit the audience - years 7/8 for show 1, years 9/10 for show 2 and finally years 11, 12 and 13 for the third show. We compacted popular Christmas songs, a variety of groups (Chamber Choir, Origin, The Highsted Band, Choir, Samba Band and Gospel Choir) soloists and some readings and poems to embrace the Christmas spirit for each audience.

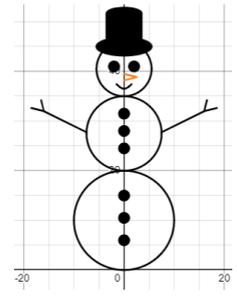
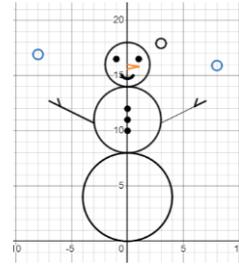
For the students, it was great fun to collectively perform as a group of musicians and performers that were so diverse in age and musical style to the whole school. Everything came together and was a very rewarding experience. Our audience (including teachers) embraced the Christmas spirit and clearly enjoyed singing along with us. The school hall that day was full of great applause, lots of cheers, many laughs and most of all passionate singing.

Maths Challenge

A Level students took part in the Senior Maths Challenge on Tuesday 4th October. Of the 14 students who entered, 2 achieved Gold Certificates, 2 Silver and 5 Bronze. Two students progressed to the follow-on Senior Kangaroo round which took place on 16th November.

Congratulations to Ilana W who was awarded a Certificate of Merit for the high score she achieved in the Kangaroo round and to Charlotte W for achieving best in school in round one. Many of the students involved in the Maths Challenge continued their interest in solving problems by taking part in MEI Integral Maths' annual Ritangle online competition which took place from 3rd October to 13th December. Students had weekly challenges to complete where they solved complex and abstract problems and submitted their solutions. Staff in the Maths Department are very proud of the effort and progress of the students involved in these competitions and the enthusiasm they showed at completing the challenges. Following on from the interest in the Maths Challenges, Highsted Maths Prefects have been supporting our new codebreaking club that takes place on Tuesday lunchtimes and are sharing their enjoyment of maths and puzzle solving with KS3 and KS4 students.

Picture: Illana W Year 13 with her Certificate of Merit. Here are some Christmas images produced by Year 12 students



using graphing software and their knowledge of equations of graphs and complex numbers.

Geography Field days

In Term 2 Year 13 students participated in two fieldtrip days as part of their Geography A level coursework. The first day was a beautiful crisp November day (thankfully!) for their visit to Herne Bay and Reculver to look at coastal processes and management of the coast. The students practiced lots of fieldwork techniques, got their feet a little wet and had chips – apparently the highlight of the day!



At the start of December- we had a second trip to Stratford and the surrounding area to look at Diverse Places and the impacts of regeneration. Again, they practiced their data collection techniques and saw for themselves how the area of Stratford and Newham had been impacted by the regeneration of the Olympic Park. We were able to see first hand the disparity between the two areas and the students all commented it was very useful for



their understanding to see this in reality rather than just in a text boom or video.

Sport Updates

Football

This year's draw has been a difficult one for our teams, coming up against some very good opposition in the early rounds.

The U12's were entered into the English School and the Kent Schools cup competitions. After a positive start to these competitions they unfortunately lost in the second round. However, the new year 7's had the opportunity to compete in the U13' Kent cup competition as well.

The U14's had an excellent start to the Kent cup and the English Schools cup with very convincing wins against Holmesdale Academy and St Augustine's. However, they met tough opposition in the second rounds one of whom, The Towers School had won the cup several times in recent years. The 16's squad were also unlucky to have exited the Kent cup in the second round when they lost to Brompton Academy. Highsted had many opportunities to score in the first half which should have secured them a win but they just couldn't find the net.

For the first time in a few years we have been able to field an U18's team and entered the Kent Cup. Unlike the other Kent competitions there are 3 pools and the best placed teams will enter the knock out rounds in the second half of the season. They have started well with a draw and a win with two more games to play next year. They are currently top of their pool so are looking forward to the games in the new year.

Kent Schools Results

U12 – Round 1 loss v Rainham in a close game finishing 3-1

U13 – Round 1 Loss v New Line Learning 4-0

U14 – Round 1 win v Holmesdale Academy 11-1

Round 2 loss v Thomis Tallis 2-3

U16 – Round 1 bye

Round 2 Loss v Brompton Academy 4-3

U18 – Pool C

V Highworth 3-3 draw

V Archbishops School won 2-1

V King's Canterbury – walk over win

V Rochester Grammar - TBA

V The Marsh School - 1st Feb

English Schools Results

U12 – Round 1 - loss v St Gregory's Catholic School 5-0

U14 – Round 1 - win v St Augustine Academy 2-3

Round 2 - Loss v The Towers School 1-14

In term 2 we also entered the Swale 9-aside football tournament for all age groups, where the local secondary schools play in a round robin tournament held at The Sittingbourne School. The students really enjoyed these fixtures as they do not tend to get drawn to play the local schools in the Kent or English Schools cup. Most age groups had their wins, draws and losses but the main emphasis was on mass participation.

GCSE Rock climbing

Over three days in November this term, 15 of the year 11 GCSE PE group attended a rock climbing course at Lower Grange Farm Scout Centre, Maidstone to gather practical evidence to count towards their GCSE practical grades.



The group worked so hard over the three days, and they were physically so tired from practising the skills. By the end of the first day they had all learned how to tie their ropes and belay each other safely.

Day 2 saw each of them develop the specific techniques of climbing from smearing to rock overs and matching. There was a lot of information to take in and was great to see the progress they made each day.

The group were an amazing bunch to take out for three days and definitely showed resilience in overcoming the challenges of the climbs they



attempted.

A special thank you to the PE team and Mrs Hoyte for accompanying the group each day.
PE Department

Trampolining – Katelyn (Year 11)

I recently took part in the Regional Championships on 9th October. In this competition there were 3 in my group, which was the over 15's level 2 in Trampolining. I came 1st in the competition after competing both routines. My first routine was going well until landing on the end deck, however I managed to pull it back with my second routine scoring high and getting through all 10 skills. This gave me the title of Regional Champion for the year.



I also competed in the Kent Championships on 30th October. In this competition there were 7 in my group which was the over 15's female intermediate category. I came 1st after competing both of my routines. I got through all 10 skills in both routines with most of my skills in the box too! This gave me the title of Kent champion for the year.

Taekwondo – Chloe and Sophie (Year 10 and Year 8)

Sisters Chloe and Sophie competed in the Puma British taekwondo championships in Bristol in November. Sophie won a bronze in patterns and gold in sparring - making her British Champion for 2022. Chloe in her second Black belt competition won silver in sparring.

Volleyball – Tope (Year 11)

Tope plays for Invicta volleyball based in Canterbury and trains regularly competing in both regional and SE competitions in volleyball and beach volleyball. It is fantastic news that Tope has recently been selected for the U17 England Volleyball squad.

Gymnastics – Skye (Year 10)

On Sunday 11th December Skye took part in the National finals representing the South East after qualifying in the regionals earlier in the year. Skye competed in all the disciplines including; bars, beam, floor and vault. Individually Skye performed really well contributing to her team winning the British bronze medal in the team event.

Cyclocross – Eva (year 7)

Eva regularly races her bike and it's currently the cyclocross season. Last weekend was the London and South East of England Regional Finals and Eva won the under 12 girls category to become the Regional Champion.



Congratulations to all students in their achievements. We always love to hear about sporting success and look forward to reading about more sporting successes in the next newsletter so please do send an email to the PE department to let us know when you are successful. We are always super proud of your representation.

Netball

We have had a great season in the Swale netball league and have nearly played all of our matches, except for a few that need rescheduling for next term due to postponements.



The year 7 team have come together quickly as a team showing great commitment and teamwork. They have had some high scoring games and have only lost one match so far this season. The team have been settling into their positions and trying out different positions in training to find out what they enjoy. Training is open to all year 7 who are encouraged to come along and participate.

Year 8 have had a solid season so far and remain undefeated in their matches to date. There have been several double digit matches and the team have worked hard together demonstrating great spirit and determination.

Year 9 have had a great season as well, we have trialed some new players to the team and look forward to playing our remaining fixtures. They are yet to be beaten and always play well together as a team linking their passes.

Year 10 have had a few matches postponed this season so we look forward to playing those. We have lots of versatility in the team with regard to positions which is good and allows team members to experience different positions. We have so far won every game except for one draw.

Year 11 have played very well this season and many of the team are busy consolidating their skills for their GCSE netball assessments. The year 11 team are really dominating in all areas of the court and remain unbeaten.

Netball club is open to all students weekly and it is always lovely to see so many regularly attend and some players keen to play outside of school for Comets and Macklins.

Thank you to all students that have come along to club and played netball for the school this season. You have showed great spirit and determination within your participation and competitive play.

We look forward to next term to some of our club swimmers competing in the Kent Secondary Schools Individual Championships on the 14th January at Tunbridge Wells and our runners representing Swale in the Kent Schools Cross Country Championships at Central Park Dartford.

KS3 Dance Group

During Term 1 Millie and Evie in Year 9.4 have developed a Year 7 dance club. The club is thriving and the talent and dedication to this club from its committed members is outstanding. The pupils attend every week on a Friday lunchtime where Millie and Evie teach them a dance that they choreograph. The Year 7s showcased their dance by performing this in assembly to the whole of the year group. All pupils were fantastic and rose to the challenge.



Millie and Evie have also led auditions for 'The Great Big Dance Off' competition where schools from different regions will be competing against each other in March 2023. Schools will be placed to have the opportunity to compete in the National Championships. Rehearsals for the competition are underway and again Millie and Evie have choreographed an exceptional piece for the pupils to perform.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion pupil group

Following on from the International Coalition of Girls conference in the Summer which our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) pupil group attended, they have continued to share and demonstrate the valuable knowledge that they learnt during this day with the school. The EDI group prepared and delivered a form time activity to all pupils in Year 7 - Year 11 focusing on unconscious bias. The content was educational, empowering and allowed pupils to discuss current issues. Pupils expressed their further understanding of



EDI from these sessions by stating the following:-

'Unconscious bias normalises many little aggressions that some may not realise they have made. By teaching a curriculum of equality and inclusion, it helps people realise their own unconscious bias and make action for change'

'Because people should be treated equally, there should be diversity in our lives and you should include everyone no after what race, religion or gender they are'

The EDI pupil group will continue their work with raising awareness and understanding of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion within our school.

Ancient History Lives On thanks to Students!

The popular Ancient History club, set up by Miss Apps, will continue to thrive thanks to the hard work of students from all three key stages working together.

The club, which began in September 2022, has covered everything from the earliest languages, prehistoric art, mythical stories and even bog bodies. The various activities

helping students explore the ancient world are put together by Miss Apps and 6th form volunteers.

When Miss Apps told those at Ancient History club that she was moving away in January, the students unanimously agreed to keep it running through student volunteers running the communication aspects of the club, advertising for new members and organising topics to cover.

Aisha, in Year 13, will be in charge of the Ancient History club, but she has eager volunteers helping her from Year 12 to Year 9. Miss Apps is incredibly proud of the club - in a short space of time it has grown into a welcoming, enthusiastic community to share a love of learning.

Scholastic Bookfair comes to Highsted!

The library ran a bookfair between the 28th of November and the 1st of December. The students really engaged with this during the four days it was open and it allowed students in year 7-9 that came to visit during their reading periods a chance to pick a book in their



reading range. The bookfair was a huge success, raising £1300 compared to the £800 raised in 2019. This is an amazing feat and it's great to see students getting back into reading after two years of lockdown and Covid!



Coding Week

On September 13th and 14th year have been involved with coding week where they had invited some of their teachers to do a programming activity.

The girls guided their teachers as what to do. They created an activity using microbit a small programming device with LED lights to show the coding outcome.

The response from the teachers were encouraging. The never thought they would do a coding activity and enjoy it to a point where some of them even said it has inspired them to try it at home.



This activity gave the students and teacher an opportunity to work together across curriculum and explore other subjects linking it with technology.



Bletchley Park Museum Visit

On September 27th 2022, a group of KS4 students and staffs visited the Bletchley Park Museum, home of the Enigma machine during the World War II and the National Museum of Computing where the history lies within. They had a very productive, fun and educational day out. The students participated in an hour-long cipher and code breaking activity where they learned a range of code breaking techniques to find 'a spy within'. Then they given a demonstration of the Bombe machine to show them how it was used to decipher crypt messages from the enemy.



During their exploration of the Bletchley Park Museum students had a dress up moment where they disguised themselves into military personal feel what it is like to be in their shoes during the war.

After the Bletchley Park Museum

exploration, the students and staffs made their way to the TNMOC. Students were taken back in time in the video games section where there were on exhibition games from the early 1980s. They had the opportunity to have a go at these vintage computer games. There was a fascinating demonstration of the Colossus and the Eniac Computer, the first computer ever built.

Students were inspired by this amazing trip going back in time and expand their knowledge in Computing, Maths and History.



Accelerated Reader News

I am pleased to say we have had a very positive start to the new school year with Accelerated Reader. KS3 have already read 65,732,921 words since the start of the year, equating to 1,109 books! We have awarded seven millionaire reader badges to Lily H, Harini M, Evelyn S, Mia I, Daniella A, Phoebe B, and Rachel N. This is an outstanding achievement so early in the year. Well done!

We don't only reward the number of words read. The Accelerated Reader programme provides an individual points target for every child according to their Zone of Proximal Development (Book Level). All students who reach their termly points goal are rewarded with a choice of stationery items. In Term One, we awarded prizes to 87 students, but I'm hoping we will give out many more in January now that we've settled back in. The deadline for this term is the last day of the Christmas holidays, so we encourage all students to get reading and quizzing!

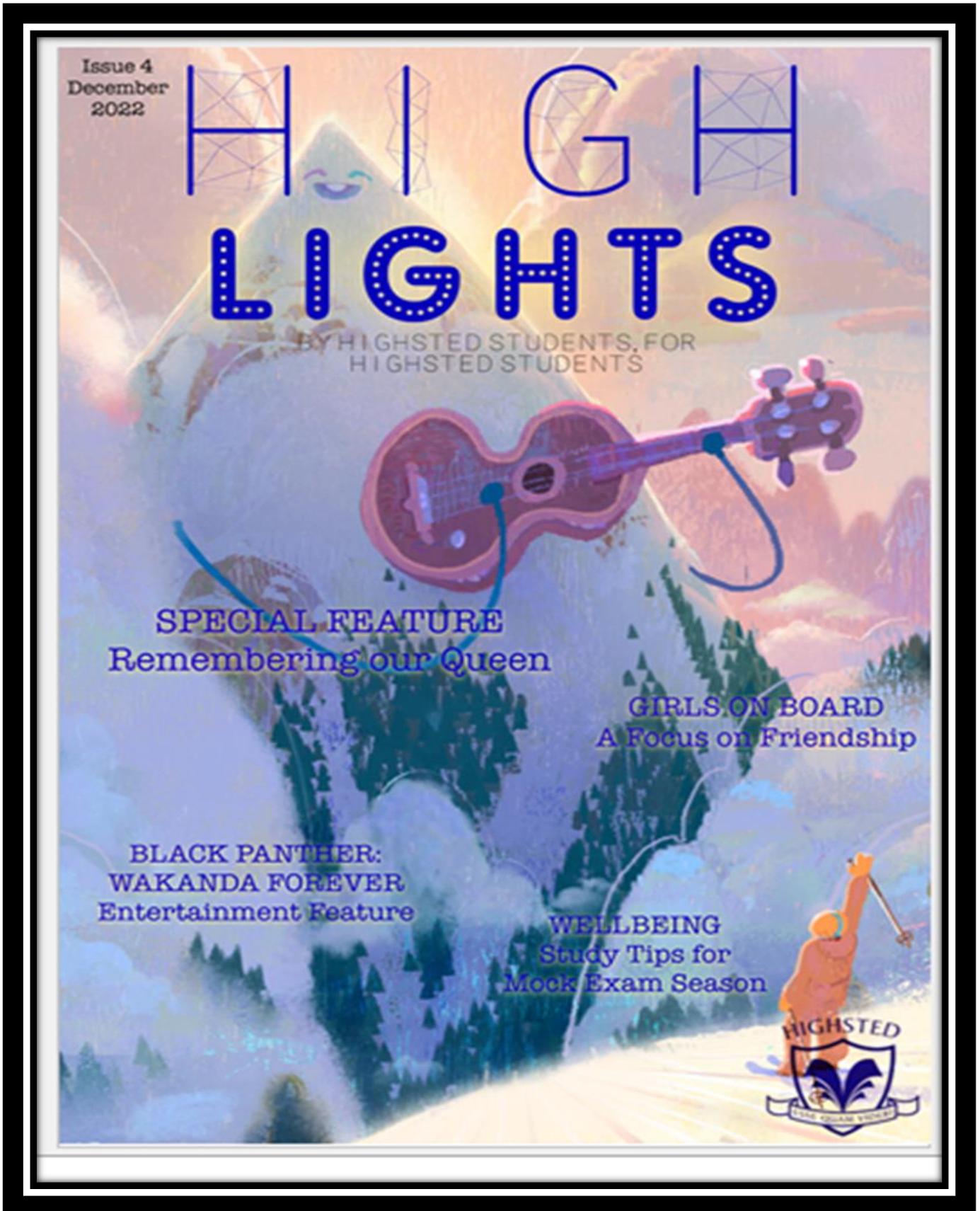
We have also nominated five Reading Ambassadors across KS3. Students were invited to write applications for the role, and we received a collection of very well written and persuasive applications. Congratulations to Ashleigh P, Amelie A, Isabel B, Evie M, Lily H, Emily R and Freya W, who were selected as our first ambassadors. They have already been involved with competitions in the library, and will soon be helping the librarian to select new books using the money raised from our very successful Scholastic book fair this term.

Finally, a reminder of the ingredients for being a great Accelerated Reader:

- Read for 20 minutes every day
- Check books are an appropriate book level (www.arbookfind.co.uk)
- Quiz as soon as possible after finishing a book (<https://ukhosted141.renlearn.co.uk/6660138/>)



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Issue 4
December
2022

HIGHLIGHTS

BY HIGHESTED STUDENTS, FOR
HIGHESTED STUDENTS

SPECIAL FEATURE
Remembering our Queen

GIRLS ON BOARD
A Focus on Friendship

**BLACK PANTHER:
WAKANDA FOREVER**
Entertainment Feature

WELLBEING
Study Tips for
Mock Exam Season



Calendar Update

January 2023	
Tuesday 3	Start of Term 3
Thursday 5	Award Evening for Academic Year 2021-22
Monday 9	Year 13 Trial Exams start
Thursday 12	Post-16 Information Evening Education for Life Day 2 Year 11 Sixth Form familiarisation day
Tuesday 17	Year 10 Parents Evening
Friday 20	Year 13 Trial Exams end
February	
Friday 10	End of Term 3 Staff Development Day
Monday 20	Start of Term 4
Thursday 23	Year 9 Exhibition & Preferences Evening
March	
Thursday 2	World Book Day
Wednesday 8	Education for Life Day 3
Thursday 16	Year 8 Parents Evening
Thursday 30	Spring Soiree
Friday 31	End of Term 4
April	
Monday 17	Start of Term 5 Staff Development Day



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